

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5 A method, system and computer readable storage medium for
executing a set of tasks. The method includes selecting
an incomplete task in the set and then either starting
its execution (if it was not previously suspended) or
resuming its execution (if it was previously suspended).
An execution timer is also started. If the selected task
completes before expiry of the execution timer, the
10 selection process is reinitiated; otherwise, the selected
task is suspended, and the selection process is
reinitiated. In this way, processing of a lengthy or
lower-priority task can be pre-empted by processing of a
shorter or higher-priority task. The method may also
15 involve recognizing that a new version of an existing
task already in the task set has been added thereto. In
such a case, the older version is removed from the task
set even if it is not yet complete.